

From: Mark Sealey
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment against the recent MicroSoft judgement settlement, payment to schools

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As a long time educator and computer/IT specialist, i am extremely concerned at the recent settlement proposed for industry monopolist Microsoft.

The proposal to 'pay off' monies owed to the industry and public by making equipment and software available to educational establishments would, in fact, further that company's monopoly.

Such an arrangement would effectively tie in those schools and colleges unwise enough to receive such merchandise to depending on Microsoft products from the time they took delivery of the goods onwards. Microsoft has a proven record of releasing inferior software and operating systems necessitating that the buyer pay later on for upgrades and improvements.

Schools participating in this deception would sooner or later find themselves under strong pressure to abandon superior products for Microsoft upgrades and later versions.

This is not good for American school students, parents, tax payers or the spirit of competition which has put such otherwise excellent resources into our schools.

Please inform me of the Department's intention not to let this happen.

Thank you!

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best
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